

September 6, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Few events in the life of an organization are as critical, visible, or stressful as with leadership changes. That moment reveals the character and effectiveness of the leadership and the organization to make a lasting difference. It is significant to recognize that an ending is also a beginning.

Twenty-six years ago on Labor Day weekend – I began a voyage with Round Lake Christian Camp as head of maintenance with nothing but some baler twine in my pocket. Two years later the Trustees and Directors asked me to be the Camp Coordinator, and a new journey began.

Looking back, God has been faithful to this farm boy from Ashland County, and He has allowed me to do immeasurably more than I ever dreamed. I have been blessed with so many people who have kindly supported me. Churches and individuals have responded to the needs of the camp like no other time in the camp's history and Round Lake is what it is today because all of us care about this place and the Kingdom of God.

In the fall of 2009, I sat with the Chairman of the Trustees, and Chairman of the Directors, and said: "I'm running out of energy." I needed to transition in my role at camp. That conversation has led to where we are today.

Over the past several months – through conversations with the staff and camp boards – we have scrutinized the mission and goals of the camp. Round Lake faces an amazing opportunity to move forward with a whole new understanding of the complexities, challenges, and changes before us.


This summer, on June 6th, the first step in my transition began as Scott Schoberg came on board to serve as the Executive Administrator, to handle daily camp operations. Scott's previous 10 years of camp experience and his skills match well with the present and future needs of Round Lake. He brings to us abilities in administration, marketing, management, and financial development. As I move out of my role as Camp Coordinator, I will pass the reigns to him.

Although my timetable and new role at the camp is still being developed, I plan to continue working at the camp to help further this powerful ministry. The position that the Trustees and Directors envision for me is the cultivation and development of the member churches, individuals, and volunteers. So, I'll still be around!

My words cannot adequately express how thankful I am to have been able to serve alongside so many faithful servants of God here at Round Lake the past 26 years. You have blessed Carolyn and I, my family, and the thousands and thousands of young people who have come here, more than you know.

It is my hope and prayer that the ministry of Round Lake will continue to grow and impact the lives of so many more. I ask that you would join with me to continue to pray for this ministry and that you would give Scott, the Board, and the camp staff all your support and encouragement as we make every effort to move forward, until Jesus comes again.

Passing the baler twine - your friend at the camp,


Ralph Eichelberger
Camp Coordinator